

A Q-BUOUS SPELL.

BY W. E. ATKINSON.



MAN with a very red blague,
And a woman with a very red blague,
Tried to bleach out his
And to straighten his
Toes.
By a hundred mile walk
Every wike.

But he struck a big keg
With a lique,
Which speedily made him
To right.
With the odor of gin
That is quickly sucked
Until quite unable to
spike.

When Noah was sailing his ark
He never walked out after dark;
He knew if he did
The world would be rid
Of the builder of that noble barque.

But once, just by way of a lark,
He hauled in a mighty big shark;
To prove this is true
The remains you can view
On the lake shore, just down by Hyde
Parque.

CLEVELAND, Ohio.

A PESSIMIST'S SONG.

BY ROBERT TYLEE ROOBS.

What is worth living for, anyway?
Inventory your sweet by-and-by;
Think over to-day yesterday
What can the world give to satisfy?

Money and wine, and woman and song—
The pleasures of life are all fools' toys;
We prize of right and we prize of wrong,
And ignorance craves till knowledge cloy.

Money and women while sought are dear,
Once tasted, bright wine leaves pain be-
hind,
The sweetest love-song wears the ear—
All life is cruel, and death is kind.

Dr. Elfenstein's Mission.

A Remarkable Romance.

BY EMILY THORNTON.

CHAPTER III.—Continued.

"How that garment came there in that
condition, or how that dagger left the
case in his dressing bureau, ever re-
mained a mystery to Fitzroy Glenden-
ning.

"All he could conclude, after the deep-
est study, was that some unknown en-
emy had struck the fatal blow, and after
stealing these articles from his private
rooms, had left the dagger purposely
upon the floor, and returned the torn
and bloody gown to the closet, in order
to fasten suspicion upon him, and thus
shield themselves.

"It did shield them effectually, while
the poor, innocent youth was arrested
and committed to prison on the charge
of murder.

"To make a long story short, in due
time the trial took place, and Sir Reg-
inald Glendenning, who had succeeded
to the title, testified to the bitter feeling
that had existed between the brothers.
He also identified the dagger and dress-
ing-gown as belonging to the prisoner.

"Antoine Drel testified as fully to the
threatening language used to the de-
ceased, on the day previous to the mur-
der by his brother.

"The trial was quite lengthy, but re-
sulted in his acquittal and discharge
from custody.

"But although freed by law, the popular
opinion remained unchanged, and, un-
able to endure the cold, averted looks
of his former friends, he left his home
and embarked for America under an as-
sumed name.

"Arriving in New York, the strain of
grief that he had undergone so told upon
his nervous system that he was laid upon
a bed of severe illness.

"Then it was that your father sought
him out and nursed him so tenderly.
After his recovery, he resolved to devote
himself to business, and thus forget his
troubles and misfortunes.

"Things began to mend with him after
this and business prospered, and before
six years passed away speculation had
so enriched him that he found himself
the possessor of millions.

"Retiring then to private life, he
bought this place in Yonkers, in order to
enjoy himself in a quiet way. But ill-
health visited him; a stroke of paralysis
rendered one side comparatively help-
less, while the asthma, which he had
been subject to for many years, increased
to an alarming extent.

"During all this time a wild wish had
been his, and that was to solve the mys-
tery of his brother's fate, and so clear
his own good name of the unjust suspi-
cions that still clung to it.

"His object was, before this, to have
returned to his native place, in some dis-
guise, and so work unknown toward the
accomplishment of this desired end.

"But his return was effectually pre-
vented by his ill-health and helplessness.
Late this wish has become uncon-
trollable. He prays that he may not
die with this stain still clinging to his
name. He has therefore, decided to ask
you to undertake the case for him."

"But," here interrupted the amazed
listener, "there must be some mistake.
I am no lawyer, simply a physician, and
as such, what can I do?"

"Everything. We think far more than
a lawyer," replied Mr. Gray. "Of course
you would have to sell your practice in
New York and settle in England. There,
as a growing physician, you would gain
the confidence of the people. You will
probably be called to attend their family,
and so can see the room where poor Sir
Arthur met his sad fate, and can study
the location of the place.

"For all this trouble Mr. Rappelye, as
we will still call him, will pay you hand-
somely. Five thousand per annum shall
be yours as long as you live. And at his
death you will, if successful, be munifi-
cently rewarded, as his will, still un-
signed, can testify.

"Are you willing to serve him as he
wishes? Will you undertake the task of
clearing his good name of the foul asper-
sions cast upon it?"

"There was a long pause, during which
the pale face of the invalid seemed to
grow a shade paler under his eager gaze.

"At length the silence was broken by
Dr. Elfenstein, who said, in a calm,
steady tone:

"I will undertake it."

"Thank you," murmured the sick man,
as he reached forth his hand to clasp
that of his visitor. "May God bless your
errand!"

"Amen!" was the low response. "I
am sure He will. A great wrong has
evidently been done, and I bind myself
by a most solemn vow to endeavor to
right that wrong and restore an honest
name to an honest man. I solemnly
dedicate myself to your cause to act for
you and let nothing intervene in my law-
ful way in order to unravel this mystery
and discover the fate of your unhappy
brother."

"For this, your solemn pledge," slowly
returned the invalid. "I as solemnly
returned the invalid. "I as solemnly

promise to place in your hands, through
my banker, the yearly sum of five thou-
sand dollars, and I will also provide for
your future, should my death occur be-
fore your task is completed. This will of
mine is already dictated, and only awaits
my signature. Mr. Gray, I will now
introduce Mrs. Stebbins and one of my
servants to act as witnesses while I write
my name to my last will and testa-
ment."

Mrs. Stebbins and Harriet Bevier then
placed their names opposite as witnesses
to the solemn transaction, and again
withdrew, after Mr. Rappelye had de-
sired them to bid the coachman prepare
to carry Dr. Elfenstein back to the de-
pot, as he had declined passing the
night with them.

"When shall you be ready to leave for
England?" asked Mr. Rappelye, as he
held his hand at parting.

"In about one week's time I think I
can settle my own affairs and arrange a
home for my mother during my absence.
I shall take the first steamer I can, and
will come again to receive further in-
structions before I leave, if you wish it."

"Do," then, my dear friend, au-
revolt."

Thus ended an interview which was
destined to be the cause of bringing to
light events of the most startling char-
acter, the development of which would
place our hero amid scenes and circum-
stances so terrible and tragic in their
nature that could they have been fore-
told might have caused many moments
of hesitation.

CHAPTER IV.

CURRENT AFFAIRS.

Dr. Elfenstein did not see his mother on
his return, on account of the lateness of
the hour, but at the breakfast table he
met her.

"My son, good morning," she said,
pleasantly, on his entrance; "so you have
returned in safety!"

"I have; and in a pecuniary point of
view, the visit brought a great change
for the better."

"Indeed! that is good news."

"From this day I am to receive five
thousand dollars annually, as I have
entered into an engagement to that
effect."

"My dear Earle, you do surprise me!"

"I fear, however, my next remark
you will not like so well."

Mrs. Elfenstein's bright looks faded on
he instantly.

"This engagement obliges me to sell
my practice, and sail in about one week
to settle in a country village in England."

"Oh, Earle, you surprise me!"

"Mother, dear, you shall have your
choice now: whether to accompany me
at once, or allow me to board you at your
brother's in this city for a few months,
until I can survey the ground, and fully
establish myself. In case you remain, I
can at any time come for you, after I see
whether it will be a permanent home.
Perhaps I shall not care to remain after a
few months."

There was a long pause, broken at
length by the mother.

"Earle, I dread the ocean, and I shall
dread a foreign home. Perhaps I had
best remain, as you say. It is your
opinion that I had better remain?"

"If you think you can endure the sepa-
ration, I shall dislike it as much as you."

"I know that, dear."

"You like Uncle John's family?"

"Oh, yes."

"And would be happy there?"

"As happy as I can be, away from my
son."

"It may not be a long separation."

"I will hope so."

By the close of the week, Mrs. Elfen-
stein was comfortably established in a
room furnished with her old familiar
things, while the son succeeded in dis-
posing of the rest, as well as his practice,
had engaged a passage on the
Oceanic.

A short visit was then paid to Mr.
Rappelye, who gave him full directions
how to proceed, and many minute de-
tails of the place and inhabitants.

Promising to write weekly, keeping him
informed of every movement, the young
man bade him farewell, and in a few
hours later was upon the outward-bound
steamer.

Standing there alone, surrounded by
strangers, it is not a matter of surprise
that a feeling of weariness and almost
desolation crept over him.

With a desperate effort, the young man
at length succeeded in dissipating the
gloom. He knew full well that it would
not answer to faint on the very threshold
of his new duties.

He knew, also, that, to accomplish his
work, he must be courageous and brave, so
he turned away from his post of observa-
tion on deck, and sought the more lively
saloon.

Taking a book from one of the tables,
he affected to read.

Presently his eyes rested upon a mid-
dle-aged lady, who seemed in feeble
health, as she leaned back languidly in
an easy chair, while her pale face and
attenuated figure spoke of prolonged
sufferings, but a patient spirit.

She was evidently waiting for the ap-
pearance of some person, as her dark
eyes continually wandered towards the
door.

Dr. Elfenstein looked at her with in-
creasing interest.

Silently he recalled the face after face
of his friends and patrons, in vain; he
could not place the likeness that had so
suddenly attracted him, and his falling
to do so caused him both annoyance
and chagrin.

Suddenly a brighter look floated into
the lady's eyes.

Following the range of her vision, he
was surprised at beholding the most per-
fect picture of youthful beauty he had
ever yet beheld.

It was all embodied in the person of a
young girl of about twenty summers,
who smilingly drew near.

Small, with a figure exquisitely mold-
ed, and movements of perfect grace, a
pure, white skin, with the rosy tint of
health just tinged each soft cheek, eyes
of a languid hazel, large, dreamy, yet
full of intelligence and gentleness, a
sweet mouth whose tender red lips dis-
closed, when speaking or laughing, teeth
even and pearly white, with, as the
growing beauty of her whole appear-
ance, a profusion of golden hair, that
uncommon golden shade that is seldom
seen, yet never disregarded, on account
of its very rareness.

She spoke, and the melodious accents
of her voice filled Earle with delight.

He had always placed great stress up-
on the tones of the human voice being a
reflection in a great degree of the nature
of its possessor.

"Aunt Gertrude, are you weary? I
stayed out longer than I intended, but I
could not bear to lose sight of the faint-
est speck of the land we have left behind
us. It has all disappeared now, and the
sea, the deep blue sea, at this moment
is on every side, rising and sinking
in all its beauty. Shall I lead you to
your state-room, auntie? Perhaps it
would be as well for you to lie down be-
fore you become sea sick and faint."

"I feel rather dizzy, now, my love, and
will take your advice."

Now, the feeble woman leaned on
the strong young arm of her niece, and
so passed to a state-room quite near
the one engaged by himself, and the
young physician smiled contentedly, for
they were to be close neighbors dur-
ing the voyage.

CHAPTER V.

THE NEW ACQUAINTANCE.

Several days passed in rather an un-

eventful way, brightened occasionally
by a glimpse of the young girl, whose
name he found to be Ethel Nevergail, as
she fitted out and in the state-room of
her aunt, who seemed ill and restless.
Dr. Elfenstein had not sought an intro-
duction, as he knew the admiration he
involuntarily felt, while she remained
unknown, might ripen into a warmer
feeling upon a closer friendship.

Providence, however, had planned
differently, and had decided that these
two should be, at least, friendly.

One rough and stormy day was draw-
ing to a close, when leaving the damp
atmosphere of the deck where he had
passed a couple of hours watching the
leaden sky and the storm-lashed waves,
together with sea-gulls that skimmed
over their surface, Dr. Elfenstein, in
passing to his state-room, was startled
by a low cry of dismay coming from the
room of Mrs. Nevergail, followed imme-
diately by the pale, frightened face of
her niece, who, on seeing him so near,
exclaimed:

"Oh, sir, something dreadful is the
matter with my aunt. Do you think
there is a physician on board?"

"I am one myself. My name is Elfen-
stein, of New York. Shall I see her?"

"If you will be so kind."

Stepping inside, our young friend ad-
vanced immediately to the berth, where
he found Mrs. Nevergail in a fainting
condition, caused by extreme exhaus-
tion.

With the greatest sympathy, the Doc-
tor instantly comprehended the situa-
tion, and turning quickly to his own state-
room, reappeared with his small medi-
cine wallet, and at once applied proper
restoratives, which fortunately had the
desired effect, and soon the young girl's
fears were calmed, and she had the
pleasure of again seeing her aunt com-
fortable for the time.

"Your aunt is better now, and I think
immediate danger has passed. But I
will not deceive you; her case is beyond
human skill to cure."

"I know it, Doctor, and she also is well
aware of her condition. My uncle died
in New York a few months ago, and in
taking care of him she contracted the
cold that has ended in consumption. Our
family physician, Dr. Munsey—perhaps
you know him as you also are from New
York—thought she might live to reach
the only relatives we have on earth, re-
siding in Liverpool and vicinity. She
was eager to return to her native land,
in order that I might not be left entirely
alone after she is taken away. Do you
think, Doctor, that she will survive until
our passage is made?"

"I trust so. Good nursing often ac-
complishes more than medicines. We
will do all we can, and perhaps the good
Lord will favor us with his blessing."

"I pray that he may. It would be ter-
rible to have her die at sea, and I all
alone with her, not a single friend near
to aid me."

"Allow me to correct you, Miss Never-
gail, for you see I know your name. You
have one, surely, if you will allow me to
be such to you. Anything I can do,
either as physician or friend, rest as-
sured shall be done."

"Thank you," she shall accept your
proffered aid and friendship gratefully.
The thought that I have one kind
friend on board this steamer, in this
emergency, is the greatest comfort."

"Our state-rooms are fortunately near
each other, so any time, by night or day,
that I can be of service, do not hesitate
to inform me," said the Doctor, and
left the room, promising to "I will stop
again, in one hour, to see how she ap-
pears on waking."

One afternoon as Earle was standing
upon deck looking out upon the vast
ocean, he became conscious that a light
step had approached and halted quite
near.

It was Miss Nevergail.

While hesitating to consider whether
his presence would be desirable to her,
an exclamation of terror startled him,
and glancing toward the spot where she
stood, he saw that she was striving to
steady herself, being dizzy from a sudden
lurch of the steamer.

Springing to her side, he instantly
offered his arm, saying, as she gratefully
accepted it:

"Allow me to assist you to a more quiet
place, where motion will not be so per-
ceptible."

"Thank you," returned the young girl,
"I suppose I ought not to venture upon
deck alone, unused as I am to the sea,
but I am so completely fascinated by all
this restless scene. Aunt is sleeping."

"I never look upon a scene like this,"
said Earle, thoughtfully, "without feel-
ing my own littleness, when compared to
the all-ruling hand that holds the billows
in its grasp, and rules the winds and
waves. But it seems quite calm again.
Will you not join me in a promenade?
The fresh sea-breeze will do you good
after your confinement to the sick-room
of your invalid aunt."

Placing her hand once more upon his
arm, the two turned and quietly paced
the deck, while an earnest and interest-
ing conversation ensued, which occupied
them for another half hour.

Dr. Elfenstein found his young com-
panion an intelligent and brilliant con-
versationalist. Where she was not an
awkward pause could ensue, and the
fascination of her cultivated manners
imperceptibly wove a feeling of intense
admiration around his heart, of which he
was ignorant, until too late to avert
what had been realized the mischief it
would bring to future feelings, he would
have made it a duty at once to suppress.
[TO BE CONTINUED.]

Says Monkeys Have a Language.

Professor Garner, who went from America
into the interior of Africa for the purpose
of studying the methods of communication be-
tween the monkey tribes in other words, to
learn the monkey language, has arrived at
Liverpool on his return. He asserts that
he has established beyond a doubt that there
is a monkey language, and that it can be
learned by man. He brought with him from
Africa two chimpanzees, with which he is
able to communicate.

Professor Garner says that he lived 101
days in a cave, which he had carried into
the heart of a forest. This cave was a
massive affair that was chained to trees. In
it Professor Garner locked himself daily
and awaited the coming of members of the
ape family, when he would try to com-
municate with them by means of the sounds
he had learned from monkeys in America
and elsewhere. He had with him a photo-
graph, with which he made a record of the
sounds made by his visitors. He asserts
that his visit to Africa was a great success
in establishing his theory that the monkey
family has a language.

President's Portrait in Mosaic.

Miss Farned Plutie, of Beirut, Syria,
called on Private Secretary Thurber, in
Washington the other day, and left for the
President a portrait of him made of mosaic
in the ancient city of Damascus. The por-
trait is about three inches square. The frame
is studded with mother-of-pearl, and includ-
es the stand, which is a few feet high. Miss
Plutie says these mosaic pictures are made
only by the people of Mount Lebanon who
preserve the secret of the art from genera-
tion to generation. She carried a photograph
of Mr. Cleveland to her home, and had the
portrait made from it. It took four months
to complete it, and cost \$500.

New York City's Prison Population.

The total population of the prisons, hospi-
tals, asylums, workhouses and penitentiary,
all under the control of the New York De-
partment of Charities and Corrections, is 13,
620. The cost of their maintenance last
three months was \$614,822.42.

Will Avoid San Francisco.

Owing to numerous desertions no British
war vessels are to enter the harbor of San
Francisco hereafter.

A TALK ON SWANS.

MOST BEAUTIFUL AND GRACE-
FUL OF WATERFOWL.

Swans Generally Pair For Life and
Are Very Affectionate Toward
Each Other—Different Spec-
ies and Their Habits.

O doubt the
swan is a true
ornamental
fowl. It is a
familiar sight
on all lakes of
the city parks,
and is perhaps
more univer-
sally known
than any of its
kind. Its beau-
tiful, and con-
trasted with
the soft tone of the water, and out-
lined by the green foliage, creates a
picture well worthy a master's hand.

Their long, well-curved necks and
an abundant plumage are peculiar
characteristics of the swan alone. The
graceful outlines and affectionate re-

process of incubation any attempt at
management is impossible and danger-
ous. During this period the birds are
so intolerant of interference that even
the appearance of man irritates them.
All that can be done is to give the old
birds a little grain, and see that their
privacy is not disturbed whilst sitting.
Domestication would remedy this,
and make the birds more amenable to
reason and would increase the number
of eggs. Considering the size of the
birds, the hardness of the young and
their excellent quality, it is much to
be wished that some serious attempt
should be made to breed them more
extensively for market purposes.

When hatched, if very wild, the cy-
gnets can be fed by throwing coarse
oatmeal or grits upon the water, or
soaked ground biscuit may be given in
the same manner; but if the old birds
are tame and familiar they will often
bring the brood to feed from a trough
placed at the edge of the water, in
which the food should be placed, al-
ways in water, as in feeding grain to
ducks.

The five most commonly known
breeds of swans are the Mute Swan,
the Whistling Swan, the Black Swan,
the Black-necked Swan, and Bewick's
Swan. The Mute Swan is that so well-
known upon our lakes and other wa-

ters as an ornamental bird, and is a
native of Northern Asia and Europe.

It is the largest and most beautiful of
all the swans, the neck being very
long and slender. The bill is red,
and the large protuberance at the
base black; the eye brown, the legs
and feet brownish or blackish gray,
and the plumage all over a pure and
spotless white. Its voice is very soft
and low, with a pleasing, melancholy
tone. Is not mute, as its name im-
plies. The cygnets when hatched, and
for a good while after, are gray.

The Whistling Swan would more
appropriately be called the Musical
Swan. The bill in this species wants
the protuberance of the Mute Swan,
and is yellow; it is also somewhat
smaller, and the neck is considerably
shorter and thicker than the Mute
Swan. Its beautiful voice alone is
enough to make its domestication
worth a little trouble.

The Black Swan is the best known
next to the Mute Swan, having been
imported from Australia many years
back. The eyes are scarlet, the legs
black, the bill red, tipped with white;
the plumage is rather sooty black,
shading on the edges of many feath-
ers into a very dark grey. In the long
and slender neck, and general outline,
it resembles the Mute Swan, but is
not quite so large. The Black Swan
breeds freely and the young are hardy.

They are established favorites on our
ornamental waters and in the zoologi-
cal gardens.

The black-necked swan is sometimes
called the Chilean swan. It is a most

gard for each other endears them in
the hearts of all.

"The swans," says "Wright's Book
of Poultry," "like wild geese and
ducks, have a very wide range, being
found in all but actually equatorial
regions. Two species at least are com-
mon to both Europe and America, be-
sides others more local in their char-
acter: but Australia, as might have
been expected from its isolated po-
sition, has a well marked species of
its own. Every race is naturally mi-
gratory in its habits, though many in-
dividuals will remain, especially in the
more temperate regions, in the same
localities throughout the year, only
taking short flights to and fro. Their
powers of flight are considerable when
fairly raised in the air, but the rising
appears to be difficult and awk-
ward. They almost always, if not in-
variably, rise from the water, striking
down with both wings and feet, and
then proceeding, half flying and half
splashing, for some twenty or thirty
yards before they can fairly raise
themselves; after which, however,
they frequently attain a great height,
Franklin stating that he has seen them
in the Polar regions several thousand
feet above the earth. They always de-
scend also into the water, approaching
it in a slanting direction, and stretch-
ing out their broad webbed feet to
check their speed at the moment they
enter the familiar element.

"Swans generally pair for life, their
whole behavior offering a beautiful
example of conjugal fidelity. The two
birds show the greatest affection for

each other, always swimming in com-
pany, and caressing each other with
their bills and necks in the most in-
teresting manner, though, of course,
the male is the most powerful and
courageous. Both birds help to pre-
pare the nest, the male chiefly gather-
ing the materials, while the female
seems to take the chief part in the
actual construction.

"A swan's nest is an enormous affair,
being built up of a large mass of
coarse water plants as a foundation,
which is lined with finer grasses. In
this six to nine eggs are generally
laid, which are, of course, very thick
in shell, and generally of a dirty white
color, sometimes dirty pale green.
The time of incubation has been dif-
ferently stated, but we believe Beech-
stein to be right in fixing it at thirty-
five days, though some say forty-two.
The young when hatched are very
thickly covered with down, and are
generally taken to the water by the
mother when only a day